

News From Somewhere

devoted sixteen years to producing a large work,
totally incom-
prehensible, and entitled, for no apparent reason,
Finnegans Wake.
It was most readers' sleep. Reviewers handled it
gingerly, fearful
of betraying a lack of appreciation of what the
publisher had
described as, in view of the fact that it had been
'more talked
about and written about during the period of its
composition
than any previous work of English literature/
inevitably 'the
most important event of any season in which it
appeared.' Mr.
W. G. Stonier was one of the few who came out in
the open as
an admirer, awed by the grandeur of
'BABABADALGHARAGH-
TAKAMMINARRQNN -
KONNBRONNTONNERRONNTVONN-
THUNNTROV -
ARRHOUNAWNSKAWNTOOHOOHOORDEN-
ENTHURNUK !', moved and exhilarated by: 'The
logos of
somewome to that base anything, when most
characteristically
mantissa minus, comes to nullum in the endth:
orso, here is
nowet bladder than the sin of Aha with his cosin
Lil. /; Mr.
Harold Nicolson, more moderate, mentioned that
gramophone
records of Mr. Joyce's prose recited by Mr. Joyce,
had pleased
Mr. Eliot, and might please him, and announced
his intention
of keeping *Finnegans Wake* by his bedside,
presumably for
occasional reading.

Documentary films portrayed what was, Walt
Disney what
was not, equally fanciful and equally admired—
real life told to
the children, fairy tales for adults only; Mr.
Hemingway red
in tooth and claw, Miss Dodie Smith red in lipstick
and sunset
glow; in new Magnitogorsk and in old Vienna, Karl

Marx and
Groucho Marx, his the benediction—Td
horsewhip you if I
had a horse/

Even to the stars the appetite for facts
extended, Sir James
Jeans here the provider; while Professor
Hogben, with his-

undigested facts were his portion. Mr. Joyce represents the
opposite process
—repudiation of facts, pursuit of incoherence. Both
processes end in dumb-
ness—tongue agitating and lips moving, but no
comprehensible sound
emerging. The glutton who eats and eats and the ascetic
who will not eat,
611 at last into the same insensibility.